

### THREE CATS

I light my pipe  
with wooden kitchen matches  
sip from a tall Budweiser can  
a gray cat  
licking itself on top of the water heater  
behind my shoulder, then  
it's asleep too.

kids asleep on the last night of summer  
wife asleep in the tenth month of pregnancy  
dog asleep on the chewed up carpet.

two beers but I think this tall one's going to  
last me for tonight, I've  
slowed down a bit over the years.

everyone sleeping, dreaming uneasily,  
afraid of the nuclear war.

I would too but I wanted to knock out a few more  
before they blow it all up.

### JUST IN CASE I BECOME A WORLD TRAVELER

my daughter tells me that  
if you go barefoot in India  
these small worms in the soil  
with hooks on them will  
stick to the soles of your feet  
and bore into your skin,  
get inside your body and  
give you diseases.

at first I suspected  
she was passing along one  
of those new urban legends,  
like alligators in the  
sewers of New York City,  
but she assured me she had  
read it in her Science  
text book.

now I've had to add  
walking barefoot  
in India to my list of  
things to be avoided  
in foreign countries,  
along with drinking  
water in Mexico, and  
taking snapshots in the USSR.